

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
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CINCPAC PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197398

MTN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: GOP INITIATIVE TO REOPEN MILITARY BASE AND CON-
TINUE ECONOMIC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MANILA 12809

1. SUMMARY: GOP HAS TAKEN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY PRESSING FOR TALKS TO RESOLVE THE TWO OUTSTANDING
ISSUES IN US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS. THROUGH AMBASSADOR
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ROMUALDEZ, MANILA IS REQUESTING IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR
A NEW MILITARY BASE AGREEMENT AND IS PROPOSING THAT THE
NEXT MEETING TOWARD RESUMPTION OF ECONOMIC TREATY NEGOTIA-
TIONS BE HELD IN MANILA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO US-ASEAN CON-
SULTATIONS.

2. AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SEC-

RETARY OAKLEY AUGUST 17 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MANILA TO CONVEY TWO MESSAGES. THE FIRST WAS DIPLOMATIC NOTE STATING GOP "WOULD LIKE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON ECONOMIC AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND DESIRES TO BE INFORMED WHEN USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE THE SAME." RECALLING VEGA'S INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 1, AND OBSERVING THAT U.S. OFFICIALS AT FORTHCOMING US-ASEAN DIALOGUE ARE LIKELY TO BE SAME AS THOSE INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT, GOP BELIEVED IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT, AND ACCORDINGLY DESIRED, TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS RESUMED IN MANILA ON SEPTEMBER 6. WE REVIEWED PRESENT STATUS OF ECONOMIC TREATY ACTIONS, INCLUDING OUR HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO COMMENT ON GOP INVESTMENT LANGUAGE JUST RECEIVED FROM MANILA (REFTEL) BY END THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK. OAKLEY SAID THAT PRESENCE OF RANKING U.S. ECONOMIC OFFICIALS IN MANILA OFFERED APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE INFORMAL TALKS WHICH WOULD ALLOW EACH SIDE TO OBTAIN BETTER IDEA OF PROSPECTS FOR RESUMPTION OF FULL-SCALE NEGOTIATIONS. ROMUALDEZ SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHETHER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HEGINBOTHAM WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR TALKS ON SEPTEMBER 6. WE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD AND ASKED THAT DFA NOTIFY EMBASSY OF EXACT TIMING OF MEETING SO THAT IT COULD BE FITTED INTO HIS SCHEDULE FOR SEPT. 6.

3. AMBASSADOR THEN PRESENTED SECOND NOTE ANNOUNCING "REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW MILITARY CONFIDENTIAL

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BASES AGREEMENT", WITH REFERENCE TO GOP "SHARING SAME DESIRE (AS US) TO SETTLE THE MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." (TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL.) ROMUALDEZ ASKED US TO NAME A DATE FOR REOPENING NEGOTIATIONS. OAKLEY OBSERVED THAT THERE IS A NEED TO CLARIFY VARIOUS ISSUES BEFORE RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH SIDES NEEDED TO DECIDE ON PROCEDURES, WHICH LAST TIME SEEMED RATHER CUMBERSOME. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE HAD BEEN HOPING TO SEE PRESIDENT MARCOS WHILE IN MANILA FOR ASEAN TALKS TO DISCUSS GENERAL US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS, WITH THE BASE QUESTION BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT.

4. SINCE UNDER SECRETARY COOPER WILL BE HEADING US DEL TO ASEAN TALKS, HOLBROOKE WILL NOT BE GOING. HOWEVER, HE IS CONSIDERING A TRIP IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO SEVERAL ASIAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PHILIPPINES. THIS COULD OFFER GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS ON RESUMING BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. ALSO, WE HOPE TO HAVE A NEW AMBASSADOR IN MANILA BY EARLY OCTOBER AND IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONSIDER RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THEN, PARTICULARLY AS AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ HAD EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW

THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE HELD IN MANILA. OAKLEY INFORMED ROMUALDEZ THAT THESE WERE OUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS AND THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM VERY SOON TO PROVIDE MORE DEFINITIVE ANSWER.

5. OCCASION WAS TAKEN TO PROVIDE ROMUALDEZ WITH BACKGROUND ON SECRETARY'S UPCOMING TRIP TO PEKING, STRESSING THAT THIS WOULD BE FIRST TOP-LEVEL MEETING OF NEW ADMINISTRATION WITH CHINESE LEADERSHIP. TRIP DESCRIBED AS BASICALLY EXPLORATORY RATHER THAN BEING DESIGNED TO

PRODUCE US-PRC NORMALIZATION AGREEMENT. TALKS WOULD RANGE OVER BROAD NUMBER OF TOPICS, INCLUDING MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, SALT, AND THE USSR, AS WELL AS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
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ON NORMALIZATION QUESTION. SESSIONS INTENDED TO GIVE CHINESE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON VARIOUS MATTERS, AND MAKE CLEAR OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. ROMUALDEZ LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, BUT MADE NO DIRECT COMMENT APART FROM A QUERY ABOUT THE PERMANENCE OF TENG'S REINSTITUTION INTO THE CHINESE HIERARCHY. VANCE

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